

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 SP-02
PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 /056 W
-----098372 141358Z /46

R 140743Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KATMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CE, MY
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: VIEWS OF HANOI'S FOREIGN POLICY

REF: COLOMBO 1090

1. WE HAVE READ REFTEL WITH INTEREST BUT MUST TAKE EXCEPTION TO SOURCE'S COMMENTS CITED PARA TWO REFERRING TO "HANOI-ORIENTED LOCAL COMMUNISTS" IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE (AS WELL AS IN THAILAND) AND "VIETNAM-SUPPLIED GUERRILLAS IN COMMON BORDER

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AREA" OF THAILAND AND MALAYSIA.

2. FROM OUR VINTAGE POINT WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE VARIOUS ARMED FACTIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) ARE EITHER "HANOI-ORIENTED" OR "VIETNAM-SUPPLIED." ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE FACTION, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

GROUP (CPM-CC) IS OFFICIALLY ENDORSED BY THE PRC, ALL THREE MAJOR FACTIONS ARE PEKING-ORIENTED AND ECHO THE PRC FOREIGN POLICY LINE, INCLUDING ITS ANTI-SOVIET DIATRIBES.

3. THE SO-CALLED "COMMUNIST TERRORISTS" OPERATING BOTH WITHIN MALAYSIA AND OUT OF SANCTUARIES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND ARE SUPPLIED PRIMARILY WITH OLD WORLD WAR II VINTAGE WEAPONS, CAPTURED STOCKS, AND HOME-MADE WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO HAVE A QUANTITY OF ITEMS OF RECENT US MANUFACTURE SUCH AS M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, AND HAND GRENADES, THESE APPEAR LARGELY IF NOT EXCLUSIVELY FROM BLACK MARKET SOURCES IN THAILAND AND NOT RPT NOT SMUGGLED IN FROM THE SRV. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE LATTER POSSIBILITY ENTIRELY, NEITHER WE NOR THE GOM SECURITY FORCES HAVE SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF THIS.

4. ADDITIONALLY, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE SRV ITSELF IS INTERESTED IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS, ON A BILATERAL BASIS, WITH ITS ASEAN NEIGHBORS (E.G., IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THAILAND AND THE OPENING OF EMBASSIES SEE BANGKOK 3848, NOTAL--AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY

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TRINH'S RECENT SWING THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA--SEE KUALA LUMPUR 0285 NOTAL, AND OTHERS). ON ITS PART MALAYSIA IS MOVING FORWARD WITH A PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SRV'S NATURAL RUBBER INDUSTRY (A TEAM OF SRV RUBBER EXPERTS JUST VISITED HERE) AND THIS APPEARS TO BE APPRECIATED BY THE VIETNAMESE. MALAYSIA'S TWO-PRONGED POLICY REMAINS THAT OF PURSUING A FIRM-ANTI-COMMUNIST POSTURE AT HOME AND COOPERATING ON A STRICTLY BILATERAL BASIS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA, AGAINST COMMUNIST INSURGENTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SEEKING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH NEARBY COMMUNIST REGIMES. THE CAMBODIAN-SRV TERRITORIAL DISPUTE HAS ALSO AFFECTED THE EQUATION AS BOTH NATIONS NOW SEEM MORE EAGER TO GAIN FRIENDS ABOARD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA02133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780113-0187
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaacisz.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1ecf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 COLOMBO 1090
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3342930
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRI LANKA: VIEWS OF HANOI'S FOREIGN POLICY
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CE, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1ecf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014